

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 14 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5 are amended, and claims 7, 11-13 and 15 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Support for the claim amendment is found, for example, among others, in Fig. 2 and corresponding passages. Further, the Specification is amended and a substitute Abstract is attached.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Royer at the interview held November 1, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute the record of the interview.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the Specification based on minor informalities. The Specification has been amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Specification is respectfully requested.

II. Objection to the Abstract

The Office Action objects to the Abstract. A substitute Abstract is attached with this Amendment that obviates the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8-10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Edwards (U.S. Patent No. 3,955,813); and rejects claims 7, 11-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Baughman (U.S. Patent No. 6,564,030). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 7, 11-13 and 15 are canceled, and thus the rejection with respect to these claims is now moot.

Edwards does not disclose or suggest at least an edge surface of the peeling guide plate includes at least one convex portion, as recited in independent claim 1.

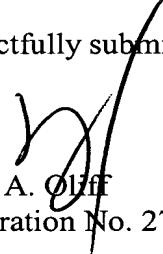
During the interview, it was argued that, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the edge surface of Edwards' peeling bar does not have a convex portion. Therefore, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-6, 8-10 and 14 depend from independent claim 1, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §102(e) are earnestly solicited.

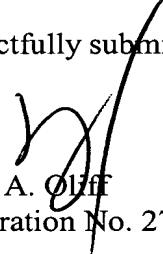
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6, 8-10 and 14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment: Substitute Abstract

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